

Message Text

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SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DHA-02 HEW-04 ACDA-07 DPW-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4103

E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE: SIGNS OF RECIDIVISM

REF: SANTIAGO 3502

1. SUMMARY: AFTER THREE MONTHS ON RELATIVELY GOOD BEHAVIOUR (REFTEL) CHILEAN SECURITY SERVICES INCREASED THE PACE OF ACTIVITY STARTING ABOUT A MONTH AGO. ACCOUNTS NOW COMING TO THE ATTENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE STILL FRAGMENTARY BUT ALARMING. WE HAVE SUFFICIENT INDEPENDENT REPORTING TO CONVINCE US THAT THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA) IS TAKING THE LEAD IN THIS NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION, WHICH FEATURES ILLEGAL DETENTIONS, TORTURE AND SEVERAL CASES OF "DISAPPEARANCE". THE PRINCIPAL VICTIMS SEEM TO BE SOCIALISTS BUT SOME COMMUNISTS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. NUMBER OF ILLEGAL DETENTIONS RISES: SOME 20 PERSONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IRREGULARLY DETAINED BY SECURITY FORCES DURING APRIL. AS OF MAY 16 A LEADING HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION ALREADY HAD LOGGED 26 ADDITIONAL CASES DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF MAY, AND NEW
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REPORTS WERE COMING IN. MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THESE DETENTIONS HAVE BEEN ILLEGAL IN THAT THE SAFEGUARD REQUIREMENTS OF JUNTA DECREE LAW 1009 (MAY 75) AND SUPREME DECREE 187 (JANUARY 76) ARE NOT BEING CAREFULLY FOLLOWED. REPORTEDLY THE REQUIRED ARREST WARRANT IS NOT BEING SHOWN ALTHOUGH IN SOME CASES FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN A "RECEIPT" FOR THEIR RELATIVE.

3. BUT NO ATTEMPT TO AVOID WITNESSES: UNLIKE THE OFF-THE-STREET SNATCHES WHICH CHARACTERIZED DINA DETENTIONS IN 1976 (AND MADE PROOF OF GOC COMPLICITY TOUGH TO PROVE) THESE DETENTIONS GENERALLY OCCUR IN HOMES BEFORE WITNESSES AND NOT INFREQUENTLY AFTER SEARCHES OF A NUMBER OF RELATIVES' RESIDENCES.

4. ACCOUNTS OF TORTURE: AS ALWAYS CONFIRMATION OF THE USE OF TORTURE IS HARD TO COME BY. ACCORDING TO AN ORGANIZATION INVOLVED PARTICULARLY WITH TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AT LEAST IN CASES OF TORTURE HAVE COME TO ITS ATTENTION. BEATINGS AND USE OF ELECTRICAL

SHOCK TO THE TEMPLES AND GENITALS ARE THE MOST FREQUENT REPORTED ABUSES. CONFIRMATION IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE INTERROGATORS USE SALVES TO PREVENT BURN MARKS AND PACK LACERATIONS AND CONTUSION WITH ICE TO HINDER SWELLING AND DISCOLORATION. BRUISES ON ONE PERSON'S ARMS APPEARED TO BE CAUSED BY "PARROT PERCH" TECHNIQUES. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT INTERROGATORS EMPLOY SUCH BRUTAL TECHNIQUES BOTH TO GAIN PERISHABLE INFORMATION AND BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT TO HOLD THE PERSON INCOMMUNICADO FOR LENGTHY PERIODS. A NUMBER OF DETAINEES ARE RELEASED THE SAME DAY OR WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THEIR ARREST. OTHERS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH VARIOUS CRIMES AND REMANDED TO COURTS. THE COMMANDER OF THE TRES ALAMOS CAMP APPARENTLY HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO HOLD NO ONE IN PREVENTIVE DETENTION. ACCORDINGLY, CUATRO ALAMOS (DINA CONTROL) IS BACK IN USE. THE NUMBER OF PERSONS HELD THERE HAS NOT BEEN VERIFIED, AND DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS HAS MADE HIMSELF SCARCE TO THOSE REQUESTING PERMISSION TO VISIT THE FACILITY. (INFORMATION IN THIS PARAGRAPH ORIGINATES FROM THE SENSITIVE AND UNIQUELY KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE MENTIONED AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS PARA. BOTH SOURCE AND CONTENT MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL

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5. DISAPPEARANCES: ALTHOUGH AS OF MAY 16 TEN PERSONS WERE UNACCOUNTED FOR BY A LOCAL ORGANIZATION WHICH KEEPS TRACK OF SUCH MATTERS, MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THESE PEOPLE WILL SHOW UP EVENTUALLY, GIVEN DINA'S OBVIOUS HAND IN THE DETENTION. TWO PEOPLE WITH WELL KNOWN POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT HAVE BEEN MISSING SINCE APRIL 29 AND MAY 2 RESPECTIVELY, HOWEVER. AND A JUDICIAL EMPLOYEE OF NO KNOWN POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE DISAPPEARED MAY 3.

6. BIZARRE REAPPEARANCES: THERE ARE SOME INCREDIBLE STORIES GOING AROUND TO ACCOUNT FOR THE REAPPEARANCE OF SOME PEOPLE MISSING FOR UP TO A WEEK. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE FAMILY WAS TOLD MAY 14. THAT THEIR RELATIVE (WHO HAD BEEN ABDUCTED MAY 9 IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS DAUGHTER) HAD BEEN FOUND, THE "VICTIM" OF A "KIDNAPPING" BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. HE WAS BEING KEPT AT CUATRO ALAMOS UNTIL "THE FACTS COULD BE SORTED OUT". A PDC LEADER FROM THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD DISAPPEARED ABOUT THE SAME TIME. HIS RELATIVES WERE TOLD THAT HE TOO WAS BEING HELD AT CUATRO ALAMOS -- UNDER

SUSPICION OF CHILD ABDUCTION. THE PRESENCE AT CUATRO ALAMOS
OF EITHER OF THE TWO HAD NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

7. COMMENT: IN SPECULATING WHAT DINA IS ABOUT WE HAVE LITTLE TO
ON SO FAR. MOST OF THOSE DETAINED SEEM TO BE SOCIALISTS, AND ALL ARE
FROM SANTIAGO AND VALPARAISO. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD CONFIDENTIALLY
THAT VICENTE ISRAEL GARCIA RAMIREZ (MISSING SINCE APRIL 29)
HAD LONG BEEN SOUGHT BY SECURITY FRCES WHO BELIEVE HE IS THE
CONDUIT FOR FUNDS FROM ABROAD. SIMILARLY, JAIME TRONCOSO VALDES
(MISSING SINCE MAY 2) HAD BEEN AN ACTIVE SOCIALIST. HIS CASE
HAS ALREADY BEEN PICKED UP BY RADIO MOSCOW, AND RELATIVES
HAVE VISITED THE EMBASSY ON HIS BEHALF. THUS, ONE LOGICAL EXPLANATION
WOULD BE THAT, HAVING ATTENDED TO THE PCCH STARTING IN APRIL" MAY 1976,

THE GOC IS NOW GOING AFTER THE REMNANTS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY.
IN THEIR HASTE TO ROLL UP LEADS FROM SUCH DETAINED LEADERS
DINA MAY BE USING ITS TRADITIONAL METHODS TO GET INFORMATION
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QUICKLY.

8. WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION AND FULL SCOPE OF THE CURRENT OPERATION
IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT ABUSES OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS ARE AGAIN
OCCURRING IN CHILE.
POPPER

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